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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G11B7/125 G11B11/00 G11B20/10 G11B19/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) **G11B** IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category * 1-11 US 6 233 211 B1 (ISHIDA TAKASHI ET AL) X 15 May 2001 (2001-05-15) column 1, line 24 - column 2, line 18 column 2, line 36 - line 67 column 3, line 10 - column 8, line 56 column 9, line 60 - column 18, line 6 column 18, line 18 - line 21 column 27, line 63 - line 66 figures 1-15,17-24,27,28 US 5 303 217 A (KABLAU JOHANNES G F ET 1-11 Α AL) 12 April 1994 (1994-04-12) cited in the application the whole document -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X_ "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 01/12/2004 24 November 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Barel-Faucheux, C

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